



JOINT LEGISLATIVE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

December 14, 2017

Room 643 of the Legislative Office Building

The Joint Legislative Emergency Management Oversight Committee met on Thursday, December 14, 2017 at 9:08 AM. The meeting was held in Room 643 of the Legislative Office Building. Members present were: Rep. John Faircloth, Rep. Jamie Boles, Rep. Mike Clampitt, Rep. Brenden Jones, Rep. Grier Martin, Rep. Garland Pierce, Rep. Larry Pittman, Rep. Michael Speciale, Sen. John Alexander, Sen. Danny Britt, Sen. Ron Rabin, Sen. Norm Sanderson and Sen. Jeff Tarte.

Senator Rabin presided.

Chairman Rabin welcomed the members and guests and thanked them for attending. Chairman Rabin introduced the Sergeant at Arms.

Chief Glen Allen, State Capitol Police Division, North Carolina Department of Public Safety and Chief Martin Brock, North Carolina General Assembly Police Department presented (See Presentation)

Q: Chairman John Faircloth- Can you give us an example of the interaction between your department, the Wake County Sheriff office and the Raleigh Police; where you 3 are working together and how it might operate?

A: Chief Allen- We all share in addressing incidents and information. We have an informal intelligence group with representatives from all the agencies; including SBI, ISAAC and the Highway Patrol that meets regularly to share what we have going on in our prospective departments. So whenever there is a major event we share the information with all of them. We each send our operational plans to one another. If it's a large event, we do meet ahead of time and plan who is doing what, with what equipment is needed.

Q: Chairman John Faircloth- In the case of a situation that might occur; involving a large number of people maybe even injuries or something that is a serious police concern when you finish with the incident is there a recording system, where you have a record of what took place in case you have questions as to what was going on at a certain time, do you coordinate that with other agencies as well?

A: Chief Allen- Yes there is a reporting system and it depends on where the incident took place. If it happens on Raleigh Police's jurisdiction then they are primarily responsible for reporting the incident. If it happens on State Government property and Capital Police are primarily



responsible, we do an investigative report and/or an organizational report for everything. Those reports are kept in perpetuity and if it's a major event we do an after-event-meeting which is sort of a round table to see what we need to do for improvements with a similar event.

Q: Chairman Ron Rabin- In the event that the three agencies have to interact and cooperate on a specific situation, how is the decision made as to who is in charge?

A: Chief Allen- If there is multiple agencies involved then primary decision making is made by the agency with the primary responsibility of the agenda taking place.

Q: Chairman Ron Rabin- Assuming you have to have a combined operation, what kind of training is used as to the "you're going to go over here but you'll take orders from this guy"?

A: Chief Allen- We don't do as much formal training as we could but we do issue operational plans which do list who is in charge of individual functions.

Q: Chairman Ron Rabin- I'm sort of impressed with the broad scope of what you do. The qualifications and training of what it takes to become part of the force can you talk about that?

A: Chief Allen- To be a State Capitol police officer we don't have a training academy. We hire only individuals that are already certified law-enforcement officers. They have to maintain their annual mandatory in-service training plus the annual mandatory in-service state police requirement.

Q: Chairman Ron Rabin- Some of the things you do require an in-depth training where do you get your bomb threat training?

A: Chief Allen- Bomb threat training is not formal training given to all officers. We have a basic hazardous device plan to locate, isolate and evacuate plan. We have an explosives dog and handler that have been added to the force. The dog is tested with the police canine service and is one of the highest rated canines in the country. We do not have anyone on State Capitol police that would handle EOD. We would contact EOD military or Raleigh fire department or something like that.

Q: Chairman Ron Rabin- Does the State National Guard have an EOD?

A: Chief Allen- If they do, I don't know but will be glad to check.

Q: Chairman Ron Rabin- Do you have or is there a need for you guys to have body cameras?

A: Chief Allen- I'm a proponent of body cameras. It's always good to document what you do. Unlike most law enforcement agencies, the state capital police has about 80 to 90% already on video. Body cameras show what happens but it does not record and show everything.

Q: Chairman Ron Rabin- Would you like to have body cameras?

A: Chief Allen- I think it could have a lot of good uses but I would defer to the direction of Department of Public Safety.

Q: Representative Michael Speciale- I see there are two Segways that are out of service due to repairs. I'm assuming that you don't have the money to fix them.



A: Chief Allen- We have not looked for the money to fix the Segways. We have our needs met with our officers that are operating them. Right now they are just kind of in storage.

Q: Chairman John Faircloth- Going to slide #5 from your presentation, where you talk about the contract positions, you seem to be concerned about the interaction there. Do the departments hire on their own without depending on you for permission or advice, do they hire their own contract officers when they need them? How does that come about?

A: Chief Allen- traditionally it's been a very awkward process because I don't even like to call them contracts I'd rather refer to them as service agreements or memorandums Of agreement it's my understanding that I don't think they are actually written by attorneys and I think that were using a document that has been passed down over the past half-decade or so just how we provide services to these individual buildings that need a police officer there I will say that the department of public safety has recently indicated that the general councils office will help us with the contracts I think it would be a good idea for them to do that and we intend to do that in the coming year.

Q: Chairman John Faircloth- Thank you sir I think it's particularly interesting to us from a standpoint of operations and what have you and would like to work with you on that and see if we can get a little more information and structure things, if there's a problem there we'd like to fix it.

A: Chief Allen- I appreciate that because the contracts are being paid by other state agencies. So there is no difference as to whether they are paid by one department or another.

Q: Chairman Ron Rabin- So the people that are contracted have the same BLET training and cannot mitigate that at the department level?

A: Chief Allen- That is exactly it. The officers have the exact same training. You cannot distinguish a receipt funded officer from an appropriated officer. Most officers have forgotten if they are receipt funded or appropriated. As long as their paychecks are there they do not have a concern.

Q: Representative Garland Pierce- Have you had an emergency practice drill, I have been here over 13 years and I have never seen an emergency practice drill?

A: Chief Brock- Yes sir, the department does a lot of these practices when the building is either closed or relatively not a lot of people present. We would be happy to carry out any drills at the direction of the Legislative Service Office.

Q: Representative Garland Pierce- I understand the point of a drill when sessions and committee meetings are not taking place, however we do need to all practice an emergency drill.

A: Chief Brock- We have had communications with Raleigh Police to set up a drill for active shooter or mass casualty event that we would respond together.

Q: Representative Jamie Boles- Have you looked at text notification to the members? I am on the volunteer fire department and that is how we get our notifications from the dispatcher.



A: Chief Brock- After the Virginia Tech incident, we worked with ISD to put this notification system in. The current and new system will send a text message to you as long as you have enrolled in the notification system.

Q: Chairman Rabin- When do we practice? If you wait for a day when there is no chaos, you wait until there is no such time.

A: Chief Brock- I will be happy to speak to my supervisor and find a time for practice drill.

Q: Representative Garland Pierce- How far are we away from installing metal detectors in the buildings? I know this is the people's building and it may be hard, but is that a conversation that is being had?

A: Chief Brock- Absolutely, we are constantly having conversations pertaining to the safety. Recommendations have been submitted to the Legislative Service Officer to the Legislative Services Commission. We hope to have something develop fairly soon.

Q: Representative Garland Pierce- In the day-to-day operations, will that really hinder people coming in? We want safety but with schools coming in will that slow down movement?

A: Chief Brock- I fully agree that this is the people's building and we want everyone to have access. I believe the public can still come to watch the legislature just like other states have done with metal detectors. I will do my best to enact any legislation the general assembly and the commission pass.

Representative Mike Clampitt- Being a former member of the Sargent at Arms of the House, there are a lot of things behind the scenes that they do to ensure our safety and the staff's safety.

A: Chief Brock- Thank you Representative Clampitt

Representative Larry Pittman- I had Lt. Col. Bill Cowen come to speak to Homeland Security, Military and Veteran's Affairs a few years ago and I asked him about security issues generally to North Carolina. He made some suggestions of having metal detectors and an armed guard at the door. I'm glad to hear you are considering some things. I, too, believe this is the people's house and they need to be able to get in to it but we do need to be safe. I have advocated for members and staff to be armed and I still advocate that. I certainly appreciate all you do to protect us but I know you cannot be everywhere at once.

A: Chief Brock- Thank you.

Q: Senator John Alexander- Of the protestors that have been arrested, are these people local or professional- have they been bused in protestors?

A: Chief Brock- We see some of both. We have arrested people that are arrested in other state's protests and that live across the state. We do see a lot of protestors that are arrested 2, 3, and 4 times.

Q: Representative Grier Martin- Professional protestors implies someone is paid. Have you seen evidence of individuals significantly paid?



A: Chief Brock- Can we quantify significant. There are times when people have shown up looking/asking where the protest is at, where do I sign up, state there was loose information, there was recruiting being done maybe at some colleges so I would say maybe frequent protesting.

Q: Chairman Ron Rabin- What is your personal feeling on concealed carry for members and/or staff? Of course, only if we get the training and all of that.

A: Chief Brock- I'm the General Assembly Police Chief, I have a lot of concerns when deadly or serious weapons are discussed. I can tell you the General Assembly police department trains frequently in firearms, defensive tactics and response. There are a lot of identification or misidentification issues that come up but the amount of training each individual or their background would be play a factor. But I believe in enforcing the law and whatever the legislation is passed I would do my best to enforce.

Representative Grier Martin- I think with the nature of the comments coming from both chambers and both republicans and democrats alike, you have done a good job in recognizing that 170 bosses all have 170 different viewpoints. I think we all would commend you on how you balance the tasks.

A: Chief Brock- Thank you. I think all of our staff truly are non-partisan agency in keeping everyone as safe as possible.

Sheriff Ingram, Brunswick County Sheriff's Office presented (See Presentation).

Q: Chairman Ron Rabin- With regard to helping other communities, Harnett County has already filled two years of classes even before they have gotten off the ground. I cannot think of a better force multiplier than to have you guys in an era where our crime is growing exponentially to have the ability to take care of us like you are. This is such a cost effective way to get more people patrolling the areas.

A: Sheriff Ingram- Thank you,

Chairman John Faircloth- I would like to point out that formal law enforcement training in North Carolina is about forty years old. We have not had it very long. In the old days, someone walked in, they gave them a gun and hoped nothing happened. We've come a long way as far as the standards of the Sheriffs.

A: Sheriff Ingram-

Q: Representative Michael Speciale- This seems like a really great program. Have any of the other Sheriffs been working with you to find out what it is you are doing so they may start a similar program?

A: Sheriff Ingram- Yes, we have had a number of counties actually send people to our academy to learn about the program and actually implement the program. It is a process, it is not as simple as opening doors and saying "we want to take volunteers", you have to go through the process to make sure you get people that really want to be there and understand what they are getting involved with. A lot of times, people think they can solve a crime in an hour and



unfortunately it does not work that way. The last thing you want to do is fire volunteers. You have to have a strong volunteer director to coordinate with staff and volunteers.

Q: Senator John Alexander- It sounds like a great program. These volunteers you have, another set of eyes and ears, how do they coordinate with the law enforcement? Do they have a dedicated number or contact person they call to report situations?

A: Sheriff Ingram- In our cars, they have a mobile radio, volunteer written across the vehicle, amber lights on top all of which to eliminate confusion among citizens thinking this is a law enforcement officer. They have a radio and a cell phone in the car to contact dispatch to send a car out to the location. This is almost nothing more than a mobile community watch. So they contact dispatch and get a car to the incident. They get out into areas of our county that rarely see law enforcement because of low crime. That interaction the citizens really appreciate.

Q: Representative Larry Pittman- I am sure you are familiar with Sheyenne's Law. I am the one who got it passed. Would this volunteer program have an impact on Sheyenne's Law? Are you seeing positive impact from Sheyenne's Law?

A: Sheriff Ingram- All of our volunteers are with a law enforcement officers on the water but they are able to assist.

Chairman Ron Rabin- I obviously think it is a great program and would like to come down and see it one of these days. I think we cannot have law and order without citizen participation. The way I understand it, it is a two phase process. They come in for the basic training and then volunteer training. Just getting the basic training across to more people helps them to understand what law enforcement's job is. While willing to work with you is going to be a very positive for law enforcement.

A: Sheriff Ingram- Thank you. The one thing I do want to point out is if you think about law enforcement agencies working in a transparent manner, especially in this day and time, adds an extra layer of transparency when you think about having citizens coming in on a daily basis and having a full understanding of what is going on in a Sheriff's office or any other law enforcement agency. They become some of our biggest advocates because they understand the problems and challenges.

Chairman John Faircloth- We have an issue dealing with a bill introduced earlier this session and because of some need to work further on the topic, it did not move so I think we ought to be giving attention to this. Emergency Management Committee is certainly an appropriate place to discuss the tele-communicators in police departments across the state getting training for doing that job (HB 476), which you know is very vital to any law enforcement function. There was a law passed to accommodate the Sheriffs having their communicators trained. The Sheriff's Association actually set up a training program. What I am asking of you, is we take a look at allowing the Police Departments to participate in this training program for their tele-communicators. There has been an agreement between the Sheriffs and the Chiefs to work this out. Mr. Fred Baggett from the Police Chiefs Association is here. Could he have a moment to speak to the committee?



Fred Baggett, Legislative Counsel for the Police Chiefs Association for the state. We are simply asking that tele-communicators that are employed by police 911 centers be required to be trained and certified just as Sheriffs tele-communicators have been required. We just want to make sure our tele-communicators are up to the standard that we need them to be and the state mandates the certification and training. There are 19 police agencies that have 911 centers. We simply want our tele-communicators to be trained under the same requirements as Sheriff's tele-communicators. The Police Chiefs Association and Sheriffs Association support this. The training is provided by the Justice Academy. The curriculum is developed by the two training and standards commissions- the Sheriffs and Law Enforcement. All those have been involved in the discussion and all support this proposal.

Representative Mike Clampitt- For the committee's information, having been at the community college level and doing training for EMS and law enforcement, there is a certification class available through the community college level. So this would be available through all of the community colleges in the state. It would not put an undue burden on getting the training.

A motion was made for the approval of the November 16, 2017 minutes. The minutes were approved.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:41 A.M.

Senator Ron Rabin
Presiding

Chandra C. Reed, Committee Clerk